

Parents 4 Teachers Analysis of CPS class size Fall 2014

Earlier this year, Parents 4 Teachers (P4T) analyzed class size data for the Fall of 2014. We compared the 2014 class size data to the guidelines in the CTU/CPS collective bargaining agreement, to determine the extent to which those unenforceable guidelines are being met by the district. Those guidelines call for no more than 28 students in grades K – 3 and no more than 31 students in grades 4 – 6.

But since the district's guidelines are set at excessive levels, we also compared the data to what we believe is a more reasonable and just standard—the class size average at the University of Chicago Lab School, the school the mayor's children attend. That school's guidelines call for elementary classes of between 23 – 24 students.

Findings:

- Nearly 20 percent of all students in grades K – 8, attended classes in excess of the guidelines called for in the CTU contract.
- But 32.6 percent of the district's youngest students, in grades K – 3, attended classes in excess of the guidelines called for in the CTU contract.
- Nearly 72 percent of all students in grades K- 8, and nearly 70 percent of students in grades K – 3 attended classes larger than the average class size at the U of C Lab School.
- As of the date of the data, 10 CPS elementary school classrooms had 40 or more students.

Reducing class size is one of most effective ways to improve student achievement. In fact, according to the research arm of the U.S. Department of Education, it is one of only four evidence-based reforms that do so. But CPS refuses to even address the issue with parents and educators and, thanks to school closings, student-based budgeting and other wrong-headed policies, class size is ballooning across the district.

In many other school districts in Illinois, class size is capped in the collective bargaining agreement and when classes exceed the guidelines a grievance can be filed under the contract. In CPS, the guidelines are just that, guidelines. They are not enforceable. And Illinois is one of just 14 states that don't have class size limits.

As a legislative committee, we recommend the CEFTF look to promoting legislation in the Illinois General Assembly to limit class sizes and ensure that the limits have teeth and are enforceable.

CPS Class Size grades K – 8 Compared to Avg. Class Size* at U of C Lab School

| GradeLevel | Num Classes | Total Students | Num Over-Crowded Classes | Num Students in Over_Crowded | Pct Classes Over-Crowded | Pct Students Over-Crowded | Average Class Size |
|--------------|--------------|----------------|--------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------|
| K | 957 | 24,271 | 554 | 15,763 | 57.89% | 64.95% | 25 |
| 1 | 986 | 25,352 | 616 | 17,478 | 62.47% | 68.94% | 26 |
| 2 | 999 | 25,564 | 605 | 17,091 | 60.56% | 66.86% | 26 |
| 3 | 979 | 26,010 | 686 | 19,633 | 70.07% | 75.48% | 27 |
| 4 | 874 | 22,909 | 581 | 16,707 | 66.48% | 72.93% | 26 |
| 5 | 863 | 23,180 | 606 | 17,655 | 70.22% | 76.16% | 27 |
| 6 | 894 | 24,417 | 676 | 19,748 | 75.62% | 80.88% | 27 |
| 7 | 1,046 | 26,487 | 618 | 17,549 | 59.08% | 66.26% | 25 |
| 8 | 1,089 | 28,520 | 716 | 20,659 | 65.75% | 72.44% | 26 |
| TOTAL | 9,034 | 235,752 | 5,896 | 169,051 | 65.26% | 71.71% | 26 |

* Average class size at University of Chicago Lab School is 23 – 24, depending on grade. This analysis uses 24 as the point of comparison.

CPS Class Size, K – 3 Compared to Avg. Class Size* at U of C Lab School

| GradeLevel | Num Classes | Total Students | Num Over-Crowded Classes | Num Students in Over_Crowded | Pct Classes Over-Crowded | Pct Students Over-Crowded | Average Class Size |
|------------|-------------|----------------|--------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------|
| K | 957 | 24271 | 554 | 15763 | 57.89% | 64.95% | 25 |
| 1 | 986 | 25352 | 616 | 17478 | 62.47% | 68.94% | 26 |
| 2 | 999 | 25564 | 605 | 17091 | 60.56% | 66.86% | 26 |
| 3 | 979 | 26010 | 686 | 19633 | 70.07% | 75.48% | 27 |
| TOTAL | 3,921 | 101,197 | 2,461 | 69,965 | 62.76% | 69.14% | 26 |

* Average class size at University of Chicago Lab School is 23 – 24, depending on grade. This analysis uses 24 as the point of comparison.

CPS Class Size Compared to CTU Contract Guidelines

| GradeLevel | Num Classes | Total Students | Num Over-Crowded Classes | Num Students in Over_Crowded | Pct Classes Over-Crowded | Pct Students Over-Crowded | Average Class Size |
|-------------|-------------|----------------|--------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------|
| K | 957 | 24,271 | 233 | 7,270 | 24.35% | 29.95% | 25 |
| 1 | 986 | 25,352 | 269 | 8,277 | 27.28% | 32.65% | 26 |
| 2 | 999 | 25,564 | 250 | 7,714 | 25.03% | 30.18% | 26 |
| 3 | 979 | 26,010 | 100 | 3,360 | 10.21% | 12.92% | 27 |
| 4 | 874 | 22,909 | 88 | 2,891 | 10.07% | 12.62% | 26 |
| 5 | 863 | 23,180 | 123 | 4,103 | 14.25% | 17.70% | 27 |
| 6 | 894 | 24,417 | 151 | 5,051 | 16.89% | 20.69% | 27 |
| 7 | 1,046 | 26,487 | 81 | 2,694 | 7.74% | 10.17% | 25 |
| 8 | 1,089 | 28,520 | 130 | 4,357 | 11.94% | 15.28% | 26 |
| Multiple-ES | 347 | 9042 | 36 | 1186 | 10.37% | 13.12% | 26 |
| TOTAL | 9,034 | 235,752 | 1,461 | 46,903 | 16.17% | 19.90% | 26 |

* CTU/CPS contract guidelines recommend no more than 28 students in a class for grades K – 3 and 32 students in Grades 3 – 8.

CPS Class Size Compared to CTU Contract Guidelines*

| GradeLevel | Num Classes | Total Students | Num Over-Crowded Classes | Num Students in Over_Crowded | Pct Classes Over-Crowded | Pct Students Over-Crowded | Average Class Size |
|------------|-------------|----------------|--------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------|
| K | 957 | 24271 | 233 | 7270 | 24.35% | 29.95% | 25 |
| 1 | 986 | 25352 | 269 | 8277 | 27.28% | 32.65% | 26 |
| 2 | 999 | 25564 | 250 | 7714 | 25.03% | 30.18% | 26 |
| 3 | 979 | 26010 | 313 | 9716 | 31.97% | 37.35% | 27 |
| TOTAL | 3,921 | 101,197 | 1,065 | 32,977 | 27.16% | 32.59% | 26 |

* CTU/CPS contract guidelines recommend no more than 28 students in a class for grades K – 3.

Top 20 largest CPS classes in Fall 2014

| <u>SchoolName</u> | <u>GradeLevel</u> | <u>ClassSize</u> | <u>IEPCount</u> |
|--|-------------------|------------------|-----------------|
| Parkside Elementary Community Academy | K | 44 | 4 |
| Anna R. Langford Community Academy | 2 | 42 | 3 |
| Dewey Elementary Academy of Fine Arts | 2 | 41 | 0 |
| Virgil Grissom Elementary School | 6 | 41 | 5 |
| Ella Flagg Young Elementary School | K | 41 | 0 |
| Virgil Grissom Elementary School | 3 | 40 | 3 |
| Columbia Explorers Elementary Academy | 3 | 40 | 2 |
| Fairfield Elementary Academy | 6 | 40 | 5 |
| Fairfield Elementary Academy | 6 | 40 | 5 |
| Henry Clay Elementary School | K | 40 | 2 |
| Dewey Elementary Academy of Fine Arts | 1 | 39 | 0 |
| Columbia Explorers Elementary Academy | 3 | 39 | 2 |
| George F Cassell Elementary School | 5 | 39 | 7 |
| John A Walsh Elementary School | 6 | 39 | 11 |
| Virgil Grissom Elementary School | 8 | 39 | 5 |
| Michael Faraday Elementary School | 8 | 39 | 10 |
| Melville W Fuller Elementary School | K | 39 | 1 |
| Luke O'Toole Elementary School | K | 39 | 1 |
| South Loop Elementary School | K | 39 | 0 |
| Adam Clayton Powell Paideia Community Academy ES | 1 | 38 | 0 |

** The above listing represents a snapshot of the 20 largest classes as of the date of the data. It is not meant to assert that the classes remained this large throughout the year.*